

goals for education cannot be accomplished without Federal assistance in student loans.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to consider carefully the legislation before them and to consider the severe impact education cuts will have on working families and their ability to access higher education for themselves and their children.

Funding to vital education programs must be restored. Mr. Speaker, the only contingency we should be talking about when it comes to education, is that if we provide our schoolchildren with the tools they need and deserve, and support higher education, Americans will win.

PRESCRIPTION FOR A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY: LOWER THE TAX RATE, AND ELIMINATE CLINTON ELITISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, how many of us remember what was going on 4 years ago? Four years ago the American people were told that we were in the worst recession in 50 years. Remember that? The worst recession in 50 years. The news media did not challenge that claim by candidate Clinton, but soon after the election, we found out all the new statistics, economic statistics, that were coming out were exactly the opposite. We were not in the worst recession in 50 years. In fact, the economy was heading up in the last half of that year, of that last election year of 1992.

We are now being told, 4 years later, that things are great. The stock market is booming. Inflation remains low. Things are not that great, Mr. Speaker. The American people know that. They can sense that, no matter how many times the news media is trying to tell them otherwise.

The growth rate actually went down dramatically from the time President Clinton was inaugurated until this year. Now we are told things are really picking up. Things are not picking up. There is an illusion that things are getting better, but the American people know better. The first item on President Clinton's agenda when he was inaugurated was passing the largest tax increase in American history. Candidate Clinton had promised a middle-class tax cut. Today, 3 years later, the American people understand something is wrong. Something is wrong. They are paying more, but they cannot put their finger on it.

That is because every time they go to the gas pump they are paying 5 cents more than they would otherwise. That is because many of our seniors, who are the hardest hit by the Clinton tax cut, know that they are paying more money on their Social Security, more taxes on their Social Security benefits. Our sen-

iors felt that tax increase, and a lot of the rest of us have felt the effects of that tax increase, but a lot of Clinton's rich pals, President Clinton's rich pals, did not feel that.

How many of us remember that some of the top contributors to President Clinton's campaign were tipped off by someone, no one knows who, that the tax increases that he would propose as President would be made retroactive? A few super rich contributors, like Mr. Eisner, who owns Disney Corporation, managed to basically do his selling and make his profits between the time President Clinton was elected and the time he was inaugurated. Apparently somebody had tipped him off that those tax increases would be retroactive. He saved himself a cool \$100 million, but the average American today is paying higher and higher taxes.

We understand that the American people today, as compared to 1992, the average American family actually is earning in take-home pay, take-home pay, over \$700 less than they did in 1992. No, Mr. and Mrs. America, you are not experiencing some kind of delusion. I know you have gone to the movie and you have seen "The American President," this multimillion dollar movie that Hollywood made to glorify the presidency. You have heard the news media telling you over and over and over again that things are getting better. But no, you are not suffering some delusion in thinking that something is wrong, that something has gone wrong with your standard of living and that you are not living as well.

When the Government takes more money from the people in the form of taxation, it puts a clamp on economic growth and it takes decision making away from them, and freedom away from them, and prosperity away from the people. We cannot create something out of nothing. Many liberals believe over the years that if the Government does something, if the Government pays money or if the Government taxes them, this is coming out of thin air. The fact is Government revenue, Federal revenue, unless it results from higher productivity of the American worker, unless it results from actually more investments, unless it results not from higher tax rates, but from more productivity and more production of wealth in our society, means that the American people are worse off. Today every American family faces the choice of either having a lower standard of living or having two people in the family work.

What we have found far too often is that when we examine the statistics, what is happening is that one member of the American family is working full time, and the only thing that happens is that that person's money is paying their Federal taxes. If we are to be a free society, if our people are to be prosperous and to live as they are supposed to, we must lower the tax rate and we must eliminate the Clinton elitists that would like to take more and more money out of our pockets.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION MUST INCLUDE FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if the comic Letterman were to name the 10 most unlikely events this year, 1 of them might be that the Presidential primary in any part of the United States would be canceled for lack of funds. I am here to tell you that this morning's Post tells us that, and I am quoting, "Cuts may mean no presidential primary in D.C." The lack, Mr. Speaker, is for money in the form of a payment due the District of Columbia, which the Congress is holding up, in the amount of \$250 million or more. As a result, the District faces the possibility of a payless payday at the end of this month, and the end of its primary for May 7.

As Members may know, this money is being held up not because of matters germane to the District of Columbia, but because of a national fight over whether or not vouchers should be funded for private and religious schools. I am here to say this morning, Mr. Speaker, that if you want to debate vouchers, an important national issue, do it on your own time and on your own bill; do not take the Capitol of the United States down with you.

This body is fiddling while D.C. residents are burning. The body shut down the District of Columbia on one occasion. Now you want to cancel democracy in the Capital of the United States by not bringing forward the payment due the District in lieu of taxes? How low can we go? What will it take to wake us up?

Mr. Speaker, I hasten to add that though I am on the ballot in this primary, I do not mind if this primary is shuttled over, if my own primary is put over to another date, because I am unopposed, so I do not have anything personally to lose, although I must tell the Members that there are minor officials that are on this ballot that do have something to lose. Of course, the President is not opposed in his own party, either. But would not the shame of the country be to have a headline, and we know it would be one, to the effect "Election in Nation's Capitol Canceled Because Congress Holds Up the Appropriation?" Come, now.

The Washington Post this morning tells us that this is happening for good and sufficient reasons, lack of funds. "Although he has accelerated layoffs, canceled the planned purchase of new polling places, eliminated mailings to voters, and reduced the temporary staff hired to run elections, Fremaux * * *, that is the head of the election board, * * * said he is still far short. The only place to turn," his letter said, "is the elections themselves."